
SENATE BILL No. 380

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-12-70.2.

Synopsis: E-scholars program. Establishes the e-scholars program to provide computers and Internet access for certain students. Establishes the e-scholars fund, and appropriates money in the fund to carry out the program.

Effective: July 1, 2005.

Ford

January 11, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session 114th General Assembly (2005)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 380

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education and to make an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-70.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2005]:

4 **Chapter 70.2. E-Scholars Program**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the state**
6 **student assistance commission established by IC 20-12-21-4.**

7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible student" means a**
8 **student who meets the following requirements:**

- 9 (1) **The student is a resident of Indiana.**
10 (2) **The student is enrolled in grade 9 at a public or an**
11 **accredited nonpublic school.**
12 (3) **The student was previously determined to be a twenty-first**
13 **century scholar by the commission.**
14 (4) **The student attends a school that:**
15 **(A) is a member of the web academy; or**
16 **(B) agrees to meet the criteria established by the web**
17 **academy.**



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1 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the e-scholars**
 2 **fund established by section 7 of this chapter.**

3 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the**
 4 **e-scholars program established by section 6 of this chapter.**

5 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "web academy" refers to the**
 6 **joint program of the intelenet commission and the department of**
 7 **education that provides Internet technology, training, support, and**
 8 **hands-on experience for students, teachers, and families.**

9 **Sec. 6. The e-scholars program is established to do the**
 10 **following:**

11 **(1) Reduce the number of students who withdraw from high**
 12 **school before graduation.**

13 **(2) Increase the number of students who are prepared with**
 14 **technological skills to enter the workforce after graduation.**

15 **(3) Increase the number of students entering institutions of**
 16 **higher learning.**

17 **(4) Encourage eligible students to attend institutions of higher**
 18 **learning by reducing the financial burden on the eligible**
 19 **students and their families.**

20 **(5) Decrease drug and alcohol abuse by encouraging higher**
 21 **educational pursuits.**

22 **(6) Increase individual economic vitality.**

23 **(7) Improve the overall quality of life for residents of Indiana.**

24 **(8) Provide a resource for the entire family to support**
 25 **educational efforts.**

26 **Sec. 7. (a) The e-scholars fund is established to provide the**
 27 **financial resources necessary to award the computers and Internet**
 28 **access under the program and to carry out this chapter.**

29 **(b) The commission shall administer the fund by delegating**
 30 **implementation and operation of the program to the web academy.**

31 **(c) The fund consists of:**

32 **(1) gifts to the fund;**

33 **(2) appropriations from the general assembly; and**

34 **(3) grants, including grants from private entities.**

35 **(d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from**
 36 **money in the fund.**

37 **(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not**
 38 **currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same**
 39 **manner as other public funds may be invested.**

40 **(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not**
 41 **revert to the state general fund.**

42 **(g) Money in the fund is appropriated continuously for the**

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purpose stated in subsection (a).

Sec. 8. Money in the fund shall be used to provide computers and Internet access to eligible students and to carry out this chapter.

Sec. 9. If an eligible student violates an agreement entered into under this chapter, the eligible student is disqualified from further consideration as an eligible student recipient under this chapter.

Sec. 10. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter, including:

(1) rules regarding the establishment of appeals procedures for individuals who become disqualified from the program under section 9 of this chapter; and

(2) notwithstanding section 2 of this chapter, rules that may include students who are in grades other than grade 9 as eligible students.

Sec. 11. The commission shall do the following:

(1) Prepare a statistical report that describes awards to eligible students on a fiscal year basis.

(2) Deliver the report described in subdivision (1) to the executive director of the legislative services agency in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 before August 15 of the year following the fiscal year covered in the report.

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